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The Black Mirror News

W. J. DIVISION Reflections

FREE AT OUR ADVERTISERS

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On our cover –

Pictured clockwise: Treena Jackson, Andra Hayes, Gustavo Salaino, Eufemia Matias and Cameron Clemons.

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Profiling the “Fab Five” of the Concorde School of Hair Design

To love my people shouldn't imply I hate others ...

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

NEW JERSEY EDITION

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PHOTOGRAPHERS

Felix Middleton • Joseph Byrd

CIRCULATION

Charles (Tonto) Gibson

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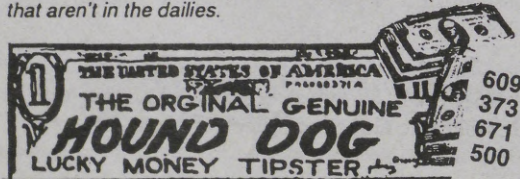
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I'm Not Giving My Black Back!

By Jewel Diamond Taylor

I'm not giving up my greens or my grits or saying "girl" and putting my hands on my hips.

You see... Life for me ain't been no crystal stair and I'm not giving up Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hammer, Mary McCleod Bethune, Sojourner Truth, Madame C. J. Walker, Toni Morrison or Dr. Maya Angelou, 'cause you see, I am a phenomenal woman and I'm not giving my black back.

I'm not giving up my crown, waves, braids, curls, locks, kinks or kente clothe.

I'm not giving up the mass choirs, the Sounds of Blackness, Mahalia, Shirley Caesar, Kirk Franklin or Aretha Franklin.

I'm not giving up sitting in Ma' Dear's kitchen eating peach cobbler or sweet potato pie and hearing her ask me, "How you doing baby?"

I'm not giving up going to "You Buy, We Fry" on Fridays, or bar-b-ques on Saturday playing bid wist and slammin' those dominoes.

I'm not giving back Harriet Tubman's train, Soul Train, Coltrane or the midnight train to Georgia. Now you can meet me at the function at the junction but I still won't give up B.B. King, the Whispers, Fancy Ms. Nancy, Lena Horne, the Philadelphia Sound, Motown or the Temptations.

'Cause you see, it's the way we do the things we do, like building the pyramids that still stand — made by our forefather's hands; where the diamonds, oil, silver and gold are buried in our rich dark land.

I'm not giving my black back! I'm happy being nappy with my wide hips and my wide nose and the rich melanin in my skin. I love putting lotion on my ashy legs. Oh, I'm happy being nappy and being in the skin that I'm in. I won't deny or forget my ancestors who lay in a wet grave at the bottom of the sea in the middle passage from slave trade.

And I won't give up on our youth of today, who still need a way made.

I won't give back Miles even though he didn't smile.

I won't give back Marvin Gaye, Richard Pryor, Phyllis Hymn, Billie Holiday or Billie Eckstein, Jackie Robinson, Jackie Wilson, or Duke Ellington.

I won't give back the electric slide, Alvin Ailey, Bojangles or Debbie Allen.

You think I'd give up reading my *Jet*, *Ebony*, *Essence*, *Emerge*, *Black Enterprise*, *Heart and Soul*, *InFocus*, *Upscale* or *Black Mirror News* magazines?

For we are a colorful people. Like Curtis Mayfield sang, "We are a people that are 'darker than blue.'" We are honey, cinnamon, mahogany and chocolate. We are REDD Fox, James BROWN, Barry WHITE, The Mothers of the Church dressed in WHITE, The Color PURPLE, the Lady Who Sings the BLUES and we are AL GREEN with love and happiness.

I'm not giving my black back! I'm not giving back Maxine (Waters), Martin, Medgar, Malcolm, Mandela, Marley, Marcus, Muhammad Ali, Michael (Jordan) or the Million Man March.

Oh, NO... I'm NOT giving my black back!

POLLY TICKS



This column – which is exclusive to *The Black Mirror News* will bring the “truth” to our community when others “lie.”

ACT NOW! BEFORE WE LOSE OUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

Camille Cosby just made a reference about the Voting Rights Act in her most recent open letter on racism. If you’ve never been politically involved or written an elected official, please do it NOW. This is extremely important.

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN!!!!

We are quickly approaching the 21st Century and we were wondering, and when I say we, I mean others of us out there who wonder if everyone else out there knows what (the significance of the year 2007 is to Black America?

Did you know that our right to VOTE will expire in the year 2007?

Seriously! The Voters Rights Act signed in 1965 by Lyndon B. Johnson was **just an ACT**. It was not made a law!

In 1982, Ronald Reagan amended the Voters Rights Act for another 25 years.

Which means that in the year 2007 we could lose the Right to Vote!

Does anyone realize that African Americans are the only group of people who require PERMISSION under the United States Constitution to vote!

This is ludicrous!

Not only should the extension be approved, but also the ACT must be made a law.

Our right to vote should no longer be up for discussion, review and/or evaluation. We must contact our Congresspersons, Senators Alderpersons, etc., to put a stop to this! As bona fide Citizens of the United States, we cannot “drop the ball” on this one! We have come too far to let government make us take such a huge step backward. So please, let us push forward to continue to build the momentum towards gaining equality.

Please pass this onto others, as we are sure that many more individuals are not aware of this.

I urge all of you that are able, to contact those in government.

THANK YOU!

This column wants to thank all of the political folks who sent us holiday cards.

Among the many were Freeholder Joseph DeVincenzo and family; Councilman-at-Large, Donald Tucker; Mayor Sharpe James and family; Congressman Donald Payne, and all of his grandsons – smile; William Payne, NJ Assemblyman of the 29th Legislative District; NJ U.S. Senator Jon Corzine; At-large Councilwoman Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins and Councilwoman-at-Large Bessie Walker, Newark City Councilman, President Donald Bradley; Councilmen Augusto Amador and Luis Quintana.

We also say thanks to James McGreevey the Mayor of Woodbridge, NJ – and our future Democratic Governor-elect of New Jersey

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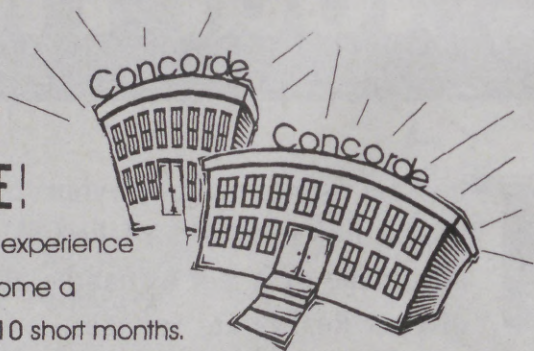
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*The \$300.00 scholarship offer is based on first time students only with 85% attendance upon completion of the 1200-Hour Cosmetology Course. Regular deposit required is \$500.00, the remaining balance of \$200.00 must be paid upon registration. If attendance requirements are not met this offer is null & void. This offer is only good toward the March 5, 2001 1200 Hour Cosmetology Class.

PRU GIVES \$50,000 GRANT

PRESS RELEASE – By Lorraine Lavender

Mary Y. Puryear, Director of Community Resources at Prudential, recently presented Kabu Okai-Davies, Founder and CEO of African Globe Performing Arts Organization with a check in the amount of \$50,000 to help this vital community theatre company "to get on its feet".

No small feat was Mrs. Puryear's eventual ascension to the position of Director of Community Resources of the Prudential Foundation. She began her employment in PAMCO (Prudential Assistant Management Company) in Florham Park, New Jersey. The department's business was setting up pension plans for companies. Because of her charismatic nature, she was asked why she was in the financial side of the business when she should be in the people side. Mary took that advice and moving through the ranks, landed in the Prudential Foundation in 1988. Today Mary Y. Puryear's office, located on the 15th floor of the main office of Prudential on Broad Street in Newark is the hub of activity for the Foundation's community funding.

Equally amazing is African Globe's rise in five short years to be one of the ten best theatre companies in New Jersey for the year 2000. This is one of the reasons the Prudential Foundation's grant committee agreed to support the organization. As Mrs. Puryear explained, Mr. Okai-Davies initiated a relationship with Prudential and articulated his dreams and goals to Mrs. Puryear long before he demonstrated his ability to develop a "venue for the community".

Although African Globe, through circumstances beyond their control, missed out on applying for the Anniversary Fund Grant, The Foundation saw the role this theater of color was playing in the community and that was the basis for their interest. Another consideration was the untimely cancellation of Crossroads' 2000-2001 season which left the African American theatre going community without alternative programming representative of their heritage. African Globe was suddenly thrust into the position of responding to a statewide crisis for live theatre.

As Mrs. Puryear pointed out, Mr. Okai-Davies had approached the development of his business with the understanding that African Globe could not survive by non-profit means alone but also had to generate income so that his organization would be self supporting. Mrs. Puryear also pointed out the fact that grants in the non-profit world are so fickle, and the fortunes of financial institutions can change just as quickly. Nevertheless we are funding African Globe because this organization is well positioned to succeed because Mr. Okai-Davies does not depend entirely on grants to support the operations of his company.

"A grant this large is a mandate to challenge, help and empower an organization" states Mrs. Puryear. This grant has a lot of meaning as to what resources are available to move to another level. Hopefully, this grant will help African Globe and attract other funders.

Mr. Okai-Davies asks the community to continue their wonderful support of African Globe and thanks Prudential for believing in Newark and its people.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

FEB. 11 – TRUMPETS JAZZ CLUB & RESTAURANT
– 6 Depot Square, Montclair, \$15.00 cover. Willie Vegas Salsa Band & Friends, 7:30 p.m. until. For reservations, 744-2600.

FEB. 11 – "SUNDAY AFTERNOON FUN & LOVE VALENTINE DINNER", 1:00 p.m.. Assaggini Di Roma, 134 Clifford Street, Newark, NJ, sponsored by The Jimmy Parrillo Civic Association, 344-0543.

FEB. 22ND – Mayor Sharpe James' B-Day Party at the Robert Treat Hotel, 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.. Buffet and Dancing.

MARCH 29TH, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. "A Day At the Races," sponsored by Essex County Democratic Committee at Meadowlands Racetrack, Pegasus, East Rutherford, NJ. Tickets at 50 Park Place, Suite 1430, Newark, NJ.

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Home Town Gal Returns...

Our very own 'homie', the world-renowned fabulous songstress, Ms. Dionne Warwick, came to town recently, and guess what? An impromptu party broke out in her honor. These exclusive photos show some of her family and friends, celebrating her birthday.

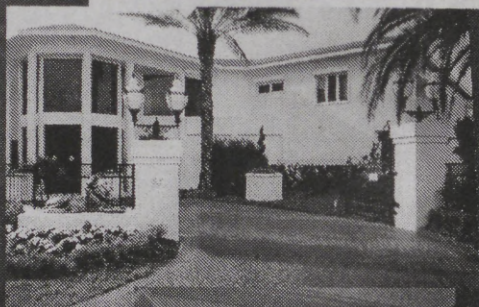
On this page with Dionne are: (inset) one of the original members of The Supremes, Ms. Mary Wilson; life-long friends, Dionne and Shirley Hendricks; and all the gang from East Orange High School.

Pictured with Dionne on the opposite page: **#1:** Walker Williams, & Archie Bennett; **#2:** Gale Tyson & her sister, Barbara Glover; **#3:** Benita Hayes & Rochelle Preston; **#4:** Shirley Armstrong, Shirley Taxley, Lorraine Bell, Shirley Hendericks, Joanie Oliver & Ronald Vannoy; **#5:** Esther Bennett & Joan Ruffin; **#6:** Shirley Taxley; **#7:** Beverly Lee, Shirley Austin Reeves of the Shirelles & Walter Godfrey; **#8:** Benita Hayes & Faith Brown; **#9:** Dionne Warwick's mom, Lee, Larry Corrin & her aunt, Ann Moss.



Special Guests

Evander Holyfield **Najee**
Maria Gibbs **Reverend Jesse Jackson**
Don King **Cecil Fielder**
The O'Jays **Shari Headley**
Dick Gregory
Calvin Peete
Kim Fields
...and more!



A Special Holiday Celebration

The famous Florida attorney **Willie Gary** made his guests feel like stars at his annual holiday party. Approximately 6,000 people – including celebrities – came to see and be seen from about 5 p.m. to midnight in downtown Stuart, Florida, where he collected toys for under-privileged children.

"Nothing compares to this party – the setting, the food, everything is just gorgeous," exclaimed **Mr. Milton Battle** and **Mrs. Brenda Battle** of Hillside, New Jersey, invited guests.

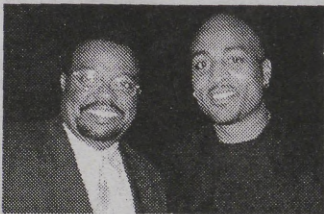
Among the celebrities **Brenda and Milton Battle** of **MetroWorld Inc.**, mingled with were: **Dick Gregory** and party (top photo); heavyweight champion boxer **Evander Holyfield** (shown dancing

above); and NBA superstar **Dennis Scott** (lower left).

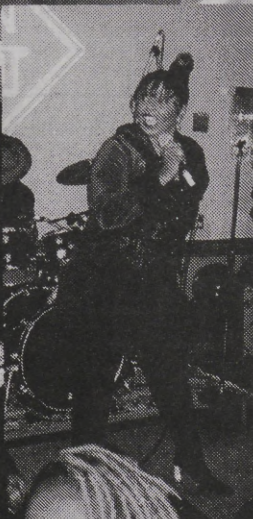
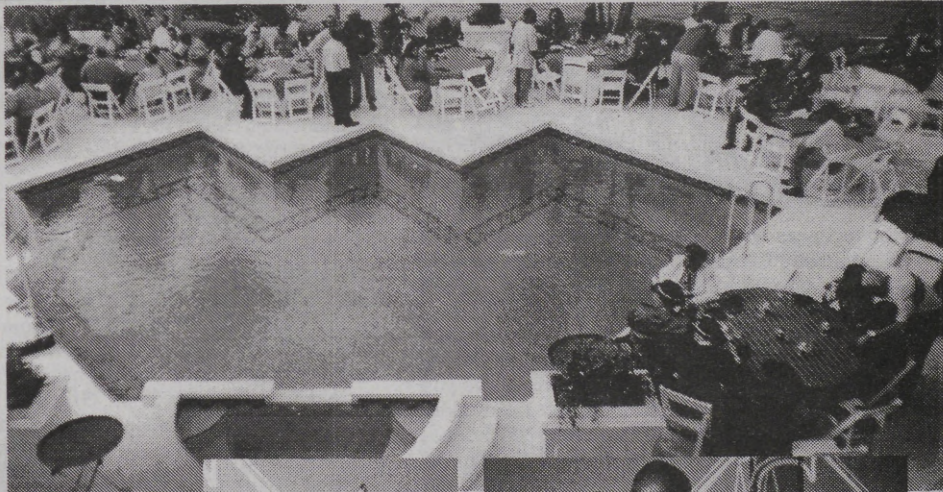
"I like to watch people come together and bump shoulders and shake hands," **Gary** said, as he was walking through gobs of people wanting to shake his hand.

Other special guests also included **Don King**, **Soul Stirrers**, **The Temptations**, **Marla Biggs**, **Chris Tucker**, **Clifton Davis**, **Teddy Riley**, **Don Newcombe**, **Calvin Peete**, **Art Monk**, **Najee**, **Shari Headley**, **Louis Hudson, Jr.**, **Cecil Fielder**, **Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.**

Live entertainment was provided by **The O'Jays**, **World Renown Recording Artists**; **Perfect Image**, Mobile, Alabama, **Joey Gilmore Band**, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, **DJ Mighty Mike** and **DJ Sydney Jerger**.



The weekend ended for the Milton & Brenda Battle of Hillside, NJ with a special Sunday Gospel Brunch around the swimming pool at the home of the noted millionaire attorney Willie Gary.




Shaking hands with celebrities such as Rev. Jesse Jackson, listening the "clean up woman" herself, Ms. Bettie Wright, mingling with Marlon Jackson of the Jackson Five, and TV star Kim Fields, Brenda and Milton Battle remarked that "it seemed like a Hollywood premiere."



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will seek her out for service... **T. Fiore**, one of the most reliable demolition and heavy equipment rental at 457 Wilson Ave., Newark, NJ, 465-1818 wishes you the best and says test them... **Due Process** – Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on Channels 23/50.52.58, 88.1 FM TV Raymond Brown and Sandra King are hosts. Hey, if you really want to see nostalgia and sports memorabilia – stop in to visit Richard Martin, president of **Martin & Son Jewelers** at 744 Broad Street. While you're there get your love a diamond from the institute of America remember Valentine's Day is coming... smiles... **Branford Press**, the home of all your printing needs, political or church with a union bug. Carol Boyd welcomes you on branford Place, Newark, NJ... Greetings from: **Slicks Tavern** – the home of the Franklin's Go Go and Catering on Nye Ave. in Irvington, NJ... **John's Place** at 24 Wright Street, John & Dorothy C. Steward, proprietors. (John is the son of Mrs. Steward, one of Newark's legendary cooks)....

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FALLING LEAVES

Norris Turney, 79

Saxophonist who recorded with Ellington

Norris Turney, a jazz saxophonist, clarinetist and flutist who played in the last incarnation of Duke Ellington's orchestra. He's heard on some of Ellington's last recorded works - among them the "Afro-Eurasian Eclipse," "The Queen's Suite" and "The New Orleans Suite". His sound was smooth, lyrical, seamless and fluent in the blues. He was also the orchestra's first flute soloist.

Jack McDuff, 749

Jazz Organist

Mr. McDuff worked with some of the most famous names in jazz music during a career that began in the 1950s. He collaborated during his career with guitarists George Benson and Mark Whitfield and horn player Red Holloway. Benson stated in a release given to the Associated Press "Jack McDuff game me the most important foundation for communicating my music to others." "He pointed out the elements that are universally common to us all."

Milt Hinton, 90

Jazz great

Milt Hinton, a jazz bassist and photographer known as "the Judge" by the jazz greats he worked with and photographed during a 70-year career. Considered the dean of bass players, Hinton performed with almost every luminary of jazz and popular music, from Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Dizzy Gillespie and John Coltrane to Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand and Paul McCartney. Hinton also documented his world with a camera, compiling close to 60,000 negatives depicting hundreds of jazz artists and popular musicians on the road, in the studio, backstage and at parties. His photos have been exhibited around the world. He and his wife, Mona, shot film footage of photographer Art Kane as he gathered jazz and blues greats in 1959 for a picture - known today as "A Great Day in Harlem" - that may be his most recognizable work.

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THEIR STORIES...

Cameron Clemons



When I was younger, I was always around the hair industry. As I got older, my interests grew and in 1998 I decided to attend Concorde School of Hair Design to pursue a career in the cosmetology field. With the encouragement and guidance of Mr. LaMonica helping me along the way, while attending

Concorde I learned not only about hair, but also I learned what it takes to run a successful business.

I completed the course in 1999, and have become the Career Consultant for Concorde School. I hope in the very near future that my career takes me to a completely different level with that I mean the opportunity to travel, something in which I could never obtain in any other field. Concorde to me means a lifetime career.

Eufemia Matias

Hi, my name is Eufemia Ester Matias. I'm twenty-five years old. I was born on June 4, 1975, and raised in Newark, New Jersey. As a child I remember asking for a Barbie Makeover doll, unfortunately I never received one so I stayed with the desire of playing with makeup and styling hair. Once I became of age, to wear makeup and I practiced on people and did my own hairstyles and became good at it.



On February 1996, I came to Concorde as a student and received my cosmetology license in the summer of '97. Working at some shops, I've noticed that people just go there to get their hair done and not listen to what is nourishing or damaging to their hair. This is why I made the choice to come back to Concorde in September 2000 to become a teacher and share what I've learned in school, seminars and at the shops with people who are interested in what I have to say and use the information beyond the school.

Meet the FAB FIVE

Corcorde

Treena Jackson

I got interested in the cosmetology business at an early age. My mother kept me in the salon getting my hair done every two weeks for as long as I can remember. So when I got my first job in the mall I was able to go every week I was hanging out there so much the owner offered me a job. (Get paid and have my hair done in the latest styles for free – I jumped at the offer).



Working in a salon and making so much money I decided to drop out of high school. I enrolled in beauty school for a brief time – but dropped out to devote myself to working full time in the salon. Earning good money, I felt I didn't need beauty school. But, my demons came back to haunt me and ten years later I decided to go back to school.

I had to first get a G.E.D. plus complete 1200 Hours in beauty school. I decided that I would dedicate myself no matter what it took. I evidently excelled and got the top award, my G.E.D. and cosmetology license all within a year. I am currently teaching and I know that the future predicts nothing but success.

of School of Hair Design

Gustavo Soraino

Growing up I was never really great at anything or excelled over any group of people in my class. But when I came to gym or art class I always had high markings. In my other courses I was always struggling, trying so hard to just make the grade. School became frustrating, no matter what I did I just couldn't keep up with the other students.



As I grew older I grew wiser. I reflected on my past one day in high school and I came to a revelation – an opening of the eyes so to speak – I realized that when it comes to the things I enjoy doing I would be at the top of my class, and the things I disliked I would struggle just to pass. That is when I knew I had greatness in me. I just had to find what I liked and go after it.

After high school I found what I was good at – cutting hair. I had been giving free hair cuts in my basements as well as going to homes trying to get better.

In 1995, I started the Concorde School of Hair Design with an aspiration to become a successful stylist. And with role models like Antonio Goriano, Mercedes Melian and Maria Brown I knew I was on the right path to achieving my goal to graduate. The State Board Exam was not easy, but due to Mr. Huewitt (a Concorde teacher) devotion in helping me on his personal time I became a licensed cosmetologist in 1997.

Currently I'm an award-winning stylist as well as a manager at SuperCuts. I became interested in the cosmetology field for its diversity. In 2001, I plan on taking my career to the next level by furthering my skill in New York City.

Andra Hayes (Dre)

In 1973 I started cutting my own hair at age 13 and received many compliments. Friends and schoolmates from my hometown of Asbury Park, NJ would ask me to cut their hair. At first I was very reluctant about cutting other people, but decided to give it a try. That was the beginning of what would later become my career in the hair business.



I continued cutting throughout college, for which I received small donations, \$3-5 for each cut. After leaving college in 1982 I returned home and found full time work. I continued cutting hair part-time, most of my customers being the men from my full-time job.

Since hair cutting wasn't as lucrative back then as it is today, I focused my time and energy in other directions, some of which weren't positive. After riding a roller coaster for a couple of years, I decided in 1994 to relocate to Newark, NJ where there would be more opportunities to pursue what I love – cutting hair. A gift that came from my grandfather, who owned a Barber Shop in the early 1900's in Miami FL.

While in Newark I was encouraged to get my cosmetology license. In 1996 I started shopping for schools. Concorde School Of Hair Design came #1 on my list. I enrolled in 1996 and earned my license in 1998.

The preparation and education I received from Concorde was excellent. I found the state board test to be very easy for me. The reason I took every phase of Concorde's training very serious and listened to everything the teachers said.

I would like to thank the staff of Concorde for helping Teach where I am today. Starting with my first teacher Ms. Sue, Mr. Myers, Ms. Curry, Ms. Dee and Big Bobby,

Mr. Anthony guided me through the opening of my first shop with advice that has no price. Thank you!!

Today I own two shops. With education from a good cosmetology program backing you such as the one I received from Concorde, the sky is the limit!

Sincerely,

Andra Hayes (Dre)

The Black Mirror News

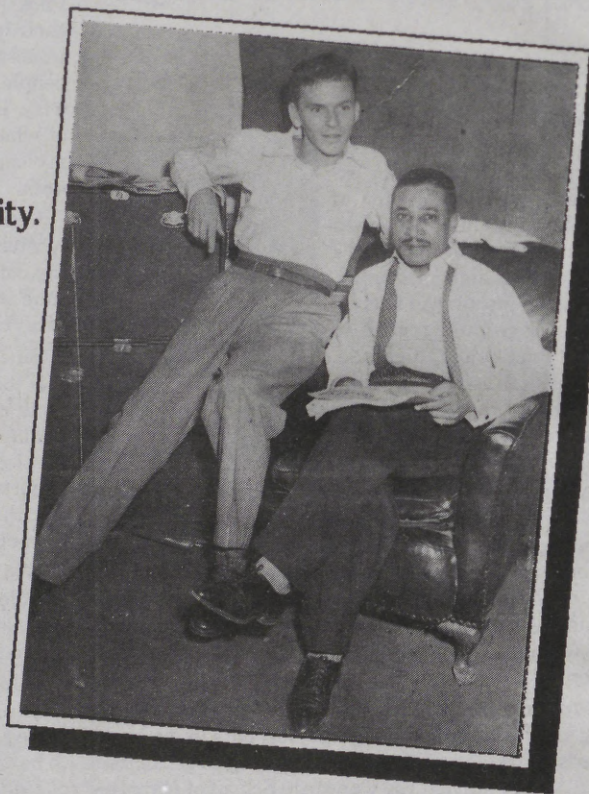
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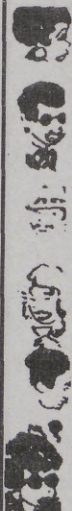
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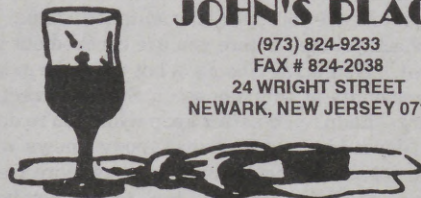
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SHADOW KNOWS...

First of all – Happy New Millennium! (You know it really starts this year!)

The Shadow overheard two sisters talking the other day, one said “this real cute guy” asked her if he could take her to the movies, she said o.k. and he told her to meet him inside at the candy counter. (I bet he didn’t even have money for candy)... Note to that young sister who recently moved illegality into her grandma’s senior citizen’s building on Broad Street along with her child, mother and assorted characters; you forgot to leave your ‘project’ mentality behind. You better check yourself before you are checked out into the street... Here’s *The Shadow*’s hot tip of the month, to the residents of that house on Sunset Street, in Vailsburg – hadn’t you better keep what you’re doing on the “down low” – cause everybody knows what going on inside. In fact, your place has more traffic than Penn Station on a busy day! And remember – all of the cars that park outside are not customers, some of them belong to the narcs – and just like *The Shadow* they are watching you... Congratulations go out to the young lady who does the stroll on Williams

Street in Orange. She can be seen both day and night out on the block trying to stop cars, she’s out there in the rain, the heat or any inclement weather, plying her trade. She is dedicated to her professional career. She is so devoted that her fellow street walkers voted for her as the “hardest” working girl in the ‘ho business’... Note to the two brothers who drive around the towns in Essex County. I hope they know what they’re doing – they have a white Mercedes and a black Lexus convertible, the two cars together cost more than the average hard working family man makes in a lifetime, and these two young brothers don’t even have social security cards. But remember all good things must come to an end... My heart goes out to the three elderly men who can be seen each day downtown in Military Park, just sitting and watching the young girls come and go, day after day, they dream of the past as their eyes write checks that their bodies can’t cash, cause their bodies have been overdrawn for years and suffer from insufficient funds. But if they should catch one of the lovelies, I hope they check their Blue Cross policy. It might not cover messing with anyone under 55 years of age.

Peace – *The Shadow* is out of here till next time and remember I take no prisoners and hold nothing sacred – bye.

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